(a) whether Government have decided to open an Intellectual Property Institute at Nagpur;

(b) if so, by when this institute will be opened; and

(c) the details of this institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) An Intellectual Property Training Institute (IPTI) was set up at Nagpur in 2002 to train officers of Patents and Trade Marks. The Training Institute is being strengthened and modernized to facilitate better management of IPRs in the country. The Institute is operational.

Steps to attract more FDI

181. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fresh initiatives have been taken recently to attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of their implementation;

(c) the total FDI inflow into the country during the last three years and the projections of FDI during the current financial year; and

(d) the specific activities/sectors of the economy which are attracting bulk of the FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, including the sectoral equity caps and associated procedures, is reviewed on a continuous basis in order to attract more investment in the country. A comprehensive review of the FDI policy was undertaken in January 2006 and the changes notified on 10-2-2006.

(c) FDI inflows depend on various factors both external and internal. Besides the macro-economic environment in the host economy, global economic environment, corporate strategy of the transnational corporation, and economic situation in other FDI destinations play a major role. Total

FDI equity inflows during the last 3 years were US$ 11.4 billion. FDI equity inflows into India have registered an average growth of 47% during this period. This figure is exclusive of reinvested earnings.

(d) Electrical Equipment (including Software & Electronics), Service Sector, Telecommunications, Transportation Industry and Chemicals (Other than fertilizers) are the top five sectors which have received maximum FDI inflows during January 2003 to April 2006.

Amendment to SEZ Act, 2005 from Maharashtra

182. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has forwarded any proposal for amendment to Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 to meet their local requirements; and

(b) if so, when it was forwarded and by when it is to be placed before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has not proposed any amendments to the Central Government's Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.

(b) Does not arise.

Pan-Asian Free Trade Area

183. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to form a Pan-Asian Free Trade Area or Asian Economic Community to exploit its potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will help to strengthen the bilateral engagement with Bangladesh, China and Myanmar?